

Specification Amendments

Please insert the following text on page 22, between lines 28 and 29:

The Poulsen et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,367,732, incorporated by reference above, discloses the following:

- ◆ The adhesive layer is deformable under the influence of weak and rapidly acting forces, thus having a low elasticity modulus and a large elongation. It has a very low flowing when dry and not exposed to outer forces. With the expression that the elastomer must be physically cross-linked is meant that the cross links in the polymer of which it consists is not of a chemical (covalent) nature but of a physical nature which means that there are areas or domains within the elastomer which have a high crystallinity, i.e. a high glass transition temperature. Precisely this property of the material known from U.S. Pat. No. 4,231,369 causes that when absorbing moisture it expands largely uniformly in all three dimensions. It has surprisingly been found that a limited plastification of the physical cross-links in the elastomer with the plasticizer mentioned under (c), which must be compatible with the styrene domains of the elastomer, causes that absorption of moisture in the adhesive material in use precominantly expresses itself as an increase in dimension in the thickness direction and only very small expansion in the two other dimensions. Thereby the puckering of the adhesive material, discussed hereinabove, is avoided even at high moisture absorption, and hence also that the adhesion gets lost in parts of the adhesive material. Especially it is obtained that sealing problems when using the material for ostomy adhesive and sealing gaskets are

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avoided. The lesser elasticity and higher plasticity of the material caused by the plasticizer, which may give a tendency to some degree of permanent change of shape or "set" after deformation is counteracted thereby that the watertight film is elastic, whereby the combination adhesive layer-film has the desired properties with respect to a low elasticity modulus and a small or no permanent change of shape or "set" after deformation.

- ◆ Because of this the skin barrier according to the invention is not only suited as sealing and adhesive gasket for ostomy pouches and other ostomy closure means, but also for bandaging purposes where skin, mucous membranes or wounds are to be protected against the immediate surroundings such as intestinal, wound or glandular secretions or again bacterial attack, the action of the air, evaporation, light, impact and pressure. If the skin barrier is to be used in connection with real bandages change of these may take place without disturbing the surface of the skin or wound since the skin barrier is retained on the skin at the change, and moreover it will in itself limit bandage changes to a minimum. The material is skin and wound friendly and because of the elastic properties it may in many cases draw edges of wounds together and render superfluous the use of clips, which may give a less visible wound healing than would otherwise be the case. By use around movable parts of the body, e.g. joints, or on soft parts of the body, which for instance are apt to form folds, the mobility is preserved and the skin barrier follows the movements. The skin barrier seals well around protruding part of the body, e.g. ostomies.

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- ◆ As elastomer there is used as mentioned styrene-olefin-styrene block copolymers. They are A-B-A block copolymers having polystyrene end blocks which are thermodynamically incompatible with the polyolefin rubber middle blocks. Consequently there is phase separation in the solid state. The polystyrene constitutes about a third of the molecule and hard polystyrene domains are therefore a kind of discontinuous phase distributed in a rubber matrix. The hard areas constitute the physical cross-links which bind the ends of the molecules together to a network reminding of that formed by a conventional vulcanized rubber (caoutchouc). Since the high cohesive strength of the block copolymer originates from the physical cross-links (instead of from the chemical cross-links as in vulcanized materials) it is easy to work. In comparison with conventional rubbers the styrene-olefin-styrene block copolymers have low molecular weights, of the A-blocks around 2000-100,000 and of the B-blocks around 25,000-200,000. The content of styrene units is normally below 40%. These block copolymers have two glass transition temperatures, one below, the other considerably above room temperature.
- ◆ The aliphatic blocks may be based on isoprene, butadiene, other short chain alkadienes or alkenes such as mixtures of ethylene and butylene, or polyisobutylene. It has been found according to the invention that the elastomer particularly advantageously is a styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer. Very suitable is the material sold under the registered trade mark "Cariflex" Tr-1107, which contains about 28% by weight styrene units.

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- ◆ The proportions of the several components may vary within rather wide limits. The amount of the elastomer, however, is normally somewhat higher than in the material known from U.S. Pat. No. 4,231,369 and according to the invention constitutes 10-40% by weight of the adhesive layer, preferably 20-40%. According to the invention the composition of the adhesive layer expressed in % by weight may be: elastomer 10-40%, preferably 20-40%; tackifier resin 15-45%, preferably 30-40%; plasticizer for the two domains of the elastomer as defined 2-12%, preferably 8-12%; antioxidant 0.5-2.5%; oily extender 0-25% and hydrocolloid 10-55%, preferably 20-40%.
- ◆ An especially preferred composition is about 25% styrene-isoprene block copolymer (notably one containing about 20% styrene unites, "Cariflex" ® TR 1107), about 35% tackifier resin, about 9% dioctyl adipate, about 1% antioxidant and about 30% sodium carboxymethylcellulose.